

PONY EXPRESS

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SERVING THE 943RD RESCUE GROUP

SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

Rescue wing commander visits group one last time

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson
943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs

DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.

-- The 920th Rescue Wing commander visited his geographically separated unit, the 943rd Rescue Group, for the last time to interact with Airmen here and to fly a combat-search-and-rescue helicopter training mission one last time over the desert and mountains surrounding Tucson.

As an Air Force Reserve pilot, Col. Robert Dunn has a long and distinguished military career here at Davis-Monthan AFB. He started off as an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot and was also part of the 71st Special Operations Squadron, 305th Rescue Squadron and finally served as an HH-60G Pave Hawk pilot and commander of the 943rd RQG.

"My best memories are going to be of the people," said Colonel Dunn. "Although the mission has been extraordinary by what we've done and where we've gone all over the world, it becomes a little routine after 20 years."

Colonel Dunn said while he'll never forget the camaraderie and relationships he built with the men and women within the 943rd, he'll also miss what lies outside the gates.

"They are such a fabulous community in their support of the military, and this is also some of the best flying in the world," said Colonel Dunn which he realized as he flew over the dry mountains terrain one last time.

During his final commander's call with the rescue group, he told the group Airmen to value the times they spend with their friends in the Air Force rescue mission.

"To all past, present and future Rescue Group Airmen, cherish the moments that you have with the folks that you work with," he said.

He also said he will always be impressed on how the active duty here has accepted the 943rd RQG as a full mission partner.

"(The 355th Fighter Wing) they treat us like one of their own and not just a part-time force, and that makes a huge difference for Reservists," said Colonel Dunn.

He will always be in awe of the commitment all Airmen in the 943rd RQG have to carrying out the Air Force Rescue mission.

"They love what they do and I can see it in their dedication to the mission, they go the extra mile to get the job done," he said. "The 943rd is the premier rescue unit in the world."



U.S. Air Force Photo/ Master Sgt. Gregory Gaunt

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Obama: Unite in Spirit of Service on Sept. 11



By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama called on the American people to come together in the spirit of service and remembrance as the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks approaches.

“In just two weeks, we’ll come together as a nation to mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks,” the president said in his weekly address.

“We’ll remember the innocent lives we lost. We’ll stand with the families who loved them. We’ll honor the heroic first responders who rushed to the scene and saved so many,” Obama continued. “And we’ll pay tribute to our troops and military families, and all those who have served over the past 10 years, to keep us safe and strong.”

The worst terrorist attack in American history brought out the best in the American people, he said. Americans lined up to give blood, volunteers drove across the country to lend a hand, schoolchildren donated their savings, and communities, faith groups and businesses collected food and clothing.

“We were united, and the outpouring of generosity and compassion reminded us that in times of challenge, we Americans move forward together, as one people,” the president said.

On Sept. 11, Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama will join the commemorations at ground zero, in Shanksville, Pa., and at the Pentagon.

Even Americans who can’t be in New York, Pennsylvania or Virginia, he said, can be part of the commemoration by participating in the Sept. 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.

“In the days and weeks ahead,” Obama said, “folks across the country in all 50 states will come together in their communities and neighborhoods to honor the victims of 9/11 and to reaffirm the strength of our nation with acts of service and charity.”

In Minneapolis, volunteers will help restore a community center, the president said. In Winston-Salem, N.C., they’ll hammer shingles and lay floors to give families a new home. In Tallahassee, Fla., they’ll assemble care packages for U.S. troops overseas and their families at home. In Orange County, Calif., they’ll renovate homes for veterans.

Obama and the first lady also will join a local service project, he said. Those who wish to participate can learn more about local opportunities at the serve.gov website.

“Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost -- a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11,” the president said.

On this 10th anniversary, he said, the nation faces great challenges.

“We’re emerging from the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes. We’re taking the fight to al-Qaida, ending the war in Iraq and starting to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. And we’re working to rebuild the foundation of our national strength here at home,” Obama said.

None of the challenges will be easy, he said, and it can’t be the work of government alone.

“As we saw after 9/11,” Obama said, “the strength of America has always been the character and compassion of our people.”

The president called on Americans to mark this solemn anniversary by summoning the same spirit shown 10 years ago on Sept. 11.

“And let’s show that the sense of common purpose that we need in America doesn’t have to be a fleeting moment,” Obama said. “It can be a lasting virtue -- not just on one day, but every day.”

The Pony Express

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FY 2012 UTA Schedule

1-2 Oct 2011
5-6 Nov 2011
3-4 Dec 2011
7-8 Jan 2012
11-12 Feb 2012
3-4 Mar 2012
14-15 Apr 2012
5-6 May 2012
2-3 Jun 2012
14-15 Jul 2012
4-5 Aug 2012
10-11 Sept 2012



Malicious websites pose threat to Air Force network

By Tech. Sgt. Scott McNabb
24th Air Force Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) -- The discovery of spoofed Air Force websites means Air Force network users must maintain vigilant awareness before entering passwords into Air Force sites.

The 624th Operations Center, located here, is alerting Airmen across the service about malicious websites posing as official Department of Defense and Air Force pages appearing through Web searches.

All Airmen, including military, civilians and Air Force contractors, must ensure links and Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) are legitimate before entering their passwords because those who don't could render the official sites vulnerable to exploitation and other threats.

"It is vitally important for everyone to watch what they do and where they go on the Net," said Col. Alan Berry, the 624th OC commander. "Any site can be hacked or spoofed at any time. In this case, an unknown actor spoofed our Air Force Portal site and also found a way to elevate their

fake site in the search results provided by some common search engines. They are relying on individuals to trust the search engine or act so quickly that they do not recognize their mistake."

Berry said verifying the link isn't foolproof either.

"Each person can protect themselves, and by extension the entire Air Force enterprise, by taking a little time and caution to check search results or links for accuracy and authenticity," he said.

The Air Mobility Command Threat, Analysis, and Response Cell identified the spoofing threat to the 624th OC. Berry said he's proud of the men and women of his unit, but it takes a team to keep the AFNet safe.

"Tackling this event was much bigger than just the 624th OC," said the commander. "Multiple units worked this issue and developed the quick actions to counter the spoof attempt. We are the hub for much of those efforts and often the public face, but we are not the only ones working hard to keep our networks safe and available."

Airmen who find a spoofed Air Force or Department of Defense website should alert the local Information Assurance office immediately.

Caring for People Survey results provide insight

by Erin Tindell
Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO (AFNS) -- More than 100,000 total force Airmen voiced their opinions in the online Caring for People survey conducted from Dec. 1, 2010 to Jan. 3, 2011.

After experts performed a comprehensive analysis, officials have released results to force support leadership.

The survey allowed active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen, civilians, retirees and spouses an opportunity to tell Air Force leaders how they can better address services within health and wellness; Airmen and family support; education and development; and housing and communities.

Respondents expressed satisfaction in areas such as housing, installation schools and military benefits. Additionally, dining facilities, fitness centers, child development centers and youth programs received customer satisfaction ratings of 70 or higher.

"The Air Force customer satisfaction index score was good overall," said Curt Cornelssen, chief of future operations for Air Force Services at the Pentagon. "Information, Tickets and Travel and the Air Force Food Transformation Initiative were standouts, competing with comparable industry leaders in the travel and food service industries respectively."

Areas of concern include a sense of Air Force community, the economy and financial issues, spouse support, medical care for families and job satisfaction.

Survey results were released to senior Air



Force leaders and force support leadership to gain insight on how to improve quality of life programs, Cornelssen said.

"Air Force leaders will continue to prioritize activities and initiatives to best support quality of life satisfaction and readiness," Cornelssen said. "Additionally, detailed customer service data will be provided to the installation level for improvement action planning and ongoing management."

The Caring for People Survey was a merger of previous quality of life and customer satisfaction surveys conducted in 2008. Insights from the 2008 surveys and subsequent focus groups spurred the development of several initiatives for improving fitness facilities, dining operations and housing. Officials also allocated \$10 million to start development of a Single Airmen program.

For more information on quality of life programs within the Air Force, visit www.MyAirForceLife.com.

FREE welcome home banners

The purpose of Operation Welcome Home is to recognize and thank individual military personnel for their service during a deployment. One FREE 2'h x 4'w banner may be requested. Please use the following link, then click on Operation Welcome Home. The sign typically takes 7-10 days. <http://www.westsidesigns.com> This is a great way to show your support

D-M Thrift Store accepts donations

The D-M Thrift Store accepts donations 24 hours-a-day at the drop-off at the store Thrift Store hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m – 2 p.m. and the first Sunday of the month from 9 a.m. – noon. If you have any questions, contact the DM Thrift Store at 228-2120.

Get 1 now program

Know anyone that is interested in joining the Air Force Reserve? The Get One Now program offers a selection of awards when a person you refer joins the Air Force Reserve. For more information on the program, visit www.get1now.us or call 877-786-2372.

943rd Education Office

The Education and Training Office is here to assist our members with any questions or concerns they have in regards to educational benefits, such as Post 9/11, Montgomery GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill Select Reserve, Reserve Educational Assistance, and Tuition Assistance.

Tricare coverage prior to mobilization

Reserve Component members are eligible for Tricare coverage 180 day prior to mobilization. RC members on Title 10 orders for more than 30 days are entitled to Enhanced Health Care/Tricare, which also extends to eligible family members. For more details, visit www.triwest.com.

TRICARE offers transitional health care

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AFNS) -- When service members leave active duty, TRICARE offers a transitional health care option for eligible beneficiaries and their families while they look for new health coverage.

The Transitional Assistance Management Program, or TAMP, is designed to extend TRICARE eligibility for sponsors and their family who involuntarily separate from the military prior to retirement. When separating from active duty, the sponsor and family lose TRICARE eligibility. However, TAMP permits individuals in certain categories to retain TRICARE coverage at no cost.

- The beneficiary categories include:
- Sponsors involuntarily separated under honorable conditions
 - National Guard or Reserve members separated from the military, following an active duty period of more than 30 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation
 - Sponsors separated from the military, but involuntarily retained for reserve duty
 - A sponsor who separates from active duty, following a voluntary agreement to stay on active duty status for a period of less than one year
 - A sponsor who receives a sole survivorship discharge
 - A sponsor who is separated from active duty who agrees to become a member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of a reserve component

A sponsor is not eligible for TAMP while on terminal leave, permissive temporary duty or authorized excess leave.

To ensure continuity of coverage during the TAMP period, it is essential that the beneficiary and family members information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System is current. Go to www.tricare.mil/deers to update information.

If a beneficiary qualifies, the 180-day TAMP period begins the day after the date of separation from active duty. Under TAMP the sponsor and family members are automatically covered under TRICARE Standard and Extra. If a beneficiary lives overseas, he or she gets coverage under TRICARE



Overseas Program Standard. During TAMP, the beneficiary and family members are covered as active duty family members and all rules for that beneficiary category apply, including any applicable deductibles, cost-shares and copayments. For program cost information, visit www.tricare.mil/costs.

If a beneficiary is eligible for care under TAMP and has a newly diagnosed medical condition that is related to active duty service, he or she may qualify for 180 days of care for the specified service-related condition. For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/tcsrc.

During TAMP, dental care provided in military dental treatment facilities is on a space-available basis. Visit the TRICARE Dental Program website for more information at www.tricaredentalprogram.com. To learn more about TAMP and enrollment options, go to www.tricare.mil/tamp.



1. Tech. Sgt. Crawford Hicks III, 305th Rescue Squadron weapons and tactics, and Master Sgt. Ruby Zarzyczny, 306th Rescue Squadron first sergeant pose for a photo with members of the Tucson Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee while they handed out Eegee's to 943rd Rescue Group Airmen on the flight line during the August Unit Training Assembly Weekend. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

2. Senior Airman Anthony Lopez, avionics technician with the 943rd Maintenance Squadron installs an APR-39 processor and mount on a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter during the August Unit Training Assembly Weekend. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

3. Master Sgt. Rory Vannoy, 305th Rescue Squadron aerial gunner, awaits outside a HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter prior to a training mission at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., August 2. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

4. Senior Master Sgt. Henry Shaw, 943rd Maintenance Squadron flight line section chief, communicates Maj. Gen. Frank Padilla, 10th Air Force commander and Col. Harold Maxwell, 943rd Rescue Group commander prior to combat search and rescue training mission at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)



1. Tech. Sgt. Trevor Stevens, 305th Rescue Squadron non-commissioned officer in charge of scheduling, inspects a tail rotor paddle for defects at Portland International Airport, Ore. 305th Rescue Squadron flew two HH-60s Pave Hawk helicopters to Portland to train with pararescueman from the 304th Rescue Squadron. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Master Sgt. Gregory Gaunt)

2. Lt. Col. David Haymore, 943rd Aerospace Medical Squadron Dental Flight chief, performs a routine check up on a patient during the August Unit Training Assembly Weekend. The 943rd AMDS dental flight performs checkups during the drill weekends to ensure the rescue group Airmen are ready dentally to perform their mission. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

3. 943rd Rescue Group commander, Col. Harold Maxwell, pins an Air Medal on Tech. Sgt. Anthony Truesdell with the 305th Rescue Squadron during the commander's call on the August Unit Training Assembly Weekend. He received the Air Medal fourth oak leaf cluster for his deployment to the 355th Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram Air Base Afghanistan. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

4. Lt. Col. Jackie Federico-Lopez, clinical nurse with the 943rd Aerospace Medical Squadron, prepares a shot for a patient during the August Unit Training Assembly Weekend. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)



Rescue group Airmen remember Sept. 11th



By Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson
943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs

DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. – This year marks the 10th anniversary of the worst terrorist attacks in U.S. history. This fateful event in U.S. history marked a turning point in our nation’s history, and it also mobilizes a country not seen since the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

On Sept. 11, 2001, many of the Airmen now with the 943rd Rescue Group were either on active duty, a Traditional Reservist or did not even consider joining the military until they saw the events that unfolded before them on that day. Despite the many reasons Airmen from the 943rd RQG serve, the tragedy of Sept. 11th became a focal point for military service.



Master Sgt. Tammy Moore, 943rd Maintenance Squadron training manager was coming home from a deployment when she first heard about the devastating attacks on our country.

“I was active duty; I was a Senior Airmen at the time, on my way home from Kuwait supporting Operation Southern Watch,” Sergeant Moore said. “I was in a C-17 just outside of Boston when I first heard the news about the first tower. Initially they thought it was some type of mid-air collision.”

When her plane landed at Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass. they piled into a tiny billeting office and watched as the towers collapsed, the Pentagon get hit and the plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

“The defining moment for me was standing in that room and having a sense of panic,” Sergeant Moore said. “I didn’t know when it was going to stop or what was going to come next. I was kind of waiting for that next bad thing to happen and thankfully nothing happened after that.”

A year later, she separated but there was something inside of her call-

ing her back to serve.

“I was going to school at the University of Arizona. I spent so much time watching everything on TV about the war and it broke my heart. It tore me up that I was not there,” Sergeant Moore said. “One night, I was watching something on TV about Afghanistan. I looked at the screen and stood up and said I’m going.”



Master Sgt. Edward Dawson, 305th Rescue Squadron senior aerial gunner, was flying training missions at Davis Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. the night prior to the September 11 attacks.

“When everything had happened I was at home and turned on the TV and saw the tape of first airliner hitting the World Trade Center, and then I saw the live footage of the second plane hitting the second building,” Sergeant Dawson said. “I called the squadron to see if what they needed us to do, and they said the base was on lock down.”

Sergeant Dawson got all of his gear ready and was prepared for whatever was to happen next.

“A couple of days later, we were tasked to fly around the base during the hours of darkness and look for anything suspicious and we flew security forces on board,” said Sergeant Dawson.

At the end of September 2011, Sergeant Dawson volunteered for a Southern Watch deployment.

“In February the following year, I signed into the UTA and the commander told us we were all being activated and had to show up Monday morning ready to go, and we supported Southern Watch and also Operation Enduring Freedom operations,” said Sergeant Dawson.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Gilbert, pararescueman with the 306th Rescue Squadron, was a civilian living in San Diego with his sister when she called him down stairs to watch TV.

“The pictures and the video they were showing really caught me off guard,” Sergeant Gilbert said. “I remember being angry and sadden by what I was seeing. I took it personally that someone was attacking our country.”

After he enlisted in the Air Force in 2003, the events of Sept. 11th became the focal point of why Sergeant Gilbert was serving in the military.

“Sept. 11th started meaning more to me once I joined the Air Force,” said Sergeant Gilbert. “When I got deployed it was kind of the answer why we were deploying; it was because someone attacked our country, and we were going to do whatever we needed to do so that this would not happen again.”

The events of Sept. 11th hit home for Staff Sgt. David Adams, pararescueman with the 306th Rescue Squadron, when he was at pararesuce training and an instructor spoke about the significance of that day and what it means to serve.

“He explained to us that it was an attack our own soil, and it was not till then that it really clicked,” Sergeant Adams said. “I thought that this is serious business and at that point I really wanted to do well and contribute to fighting for my country and all that we stand for.”



Interim command chief imparts leadership wisdom to rescue group Airmen

by Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson
 943rd Rescue Group Public Affairs

DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. -- The interim command chief of the 920th Rescue Wing visited the 943rd Rescue Group here for the first time during the August Unit Training Assembly Weekend where he shared his thoughts on what he expects from the rescue group's enlisted corps. He addressed rescue group Airmen during an enlisted call on some of the upcoming challenges facing the Air Force Reserve. Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Bianchi, 920th RQG Interim Command Chief explained some of the concerns of top Air Force leaders at a senior leadership conference he recently attended.

"There are three things that are a threat to national security: One of them is terrorism, two is nuclear and number three is our debt," said Chief Bianchi. "Debt has become so realistic to us in the military that all of our top Air Force leaders had the same reoccurring theme about the seriousness of our debt, and they have knocked billions off our budget, and it will affect all of us, regardless of rank."

He also explained some of the changes that will involve joint training and personnel records going electronic.

"We will be doing more Professional Military Training with other services," said Chief Bianchi. "I think it will be kind of neat to network with Army Soldiers and Marines."

He also explained training records are going totally electronic. Deploying Airmen will be leaving with a compact disc in hand instead of a training record.

Chief Bianchi would like to implement creative leadership programs, so that rescue Airmen will know what is expected of them when they rise through the ranks.

"We were thinking about having a shadow-

ing program, where I take a few folks with me a whole UTA to see what a command chief does," he said. "We want to do the same with Non-Commissioned Officers. Allowing younger Airmen to spend time with them to see what will be expected of them when they become a staff or technical sergeant."

With deployments a way of life for rescue group Airmen, the chief wants to ensure that all troops are fully trained and ready before they head out the door.

"The deploying Airmen need to make sure they get the training they need to feel comfortable when they get to their respective duty locations in the Middle East because completing your training while in country is too late," said the chief. "We need to make sure that our Airmen don't feel inadequate going into combat."

When it comes to solving the problems of today's Airmen, Chief Bianchi addressed how to approach challenges.

"We have to be creative on some of the issues that are being presented to our current-day Airmen, and it involves all us, from the wing commander to an Airman, all ideas are subject to being implemented," he said.

Being in the acting command chief for only four months now, Chief Bianchi is devoted to helping rescue Airmen and ensuring they have what they need to be successful in combat operations.

"As a maintenance chief, I'm a fixer, I like to help the Airmen, and especially I need to make sure that my Airmen are equipped and ready to go



The interim command chief for the 920th Rescue Wing, Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Bianchi addresses 943rd Rescue Group Airmen during an all-enlisted call during the August Unit Training Assembly weekend. He addressed many of the issues facing the Air Force Reserve. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

on deployments," he said.

The interim command chief left the 943rd RQG wowed with how Airmen here execute the combat search and rescue mission.

"I'm really impressed with 943rd Airmen," said the chief. "You are all very professional and definitely have the esprit de corps a command chief or a chief would want to see in rescue Airmen."

943 RQG Finance Corner

End of Fiscal Year Closeout: Reserve Pay and Travel

How can you help our Group manage our budget? Orders for pay should be turned in NLT 5 workdays after the end date of the order. You can print your order from AROWS-R, both sides. You must attach all amendments to the original order. Certifying officials should ensure the members' dates in blocks 40 match blocks 13 and 14 reporting and release dates on the order prior to certifying. If it doesn't match, an amendment may be required prior to submitting to the pay office. Also amendments to extend your orders must be submitted to the Reserve Pay Office to continue your pay entitlements.

Traditional Reservists and ARTs can now certify their completed short tour (less than 30 days) orders electronically in AROWS-R. For ARTs, there is an additional electronic approval by the timekeeper. The supervisor will receive an e-mail with the link. They have to click on the link in the e-mail to electronically certify that order. The payout for the electronic certified orders still depends on the pay cycle dates, expect the 7-10 day window from the certification date. Per HQ AFRC/FMF the Reserve Pay Office personnel cannot accept orders until the day after the order ends (short tours or completion of long tour orders).

Commuting mileage after AROWS-R system release April 2011: If AF Fm 938 shows commute mileage block checked, no per diem amount and no travel fund cite, you must complete the second page for the mileage portion. These are now processed through the RPO and the pay system which has to be computed by the pay specialist for input.

AF Fm 40As: they should be turned in to the UTAPSweb monitors within 3 days after duty performed for input into UTAPSweb.

Filing travel vouchers: Members are required to file their travel vouchers with 355 CPTS (Base Finance) NLT 5 days after the end date of the order. Commuting mileage prior to AROWS-R system release in April 2011: if the AF Fm 938 order shows commute block checked and there is an amount in the per diem block, there is also a travel fund cite on the order, you must file a travel voucher with 355 CPTS Customer Service.

RESULTS of filing right away: You will receive your money faster

and the FM analysts can better analyze limited Reserve Personnel Appropriation (RPA) funding and the Group can use any available funding prior to 30 September 2011 versus HQ pulling it and using it. AROWS-R <https://arowsr.afrc.af.mil/arows-r/> (all members gained in MILPDS have access)

GOING TDY soon? Pull out your GTC at least 2 weeks prior and check the expiration date. If it's expired contact 943 RQG GTC APC: Ms. Gloria Sturm, 943 RQG/FM, CMSgt James Eddings 304 RQS/CEM or Major Sheralee Gardner 304 RQS/LG. School TDY orders more than 30 days or deployment orders: Members are required to out-process the SPA and the RPO prior to going TDY more than 30 days away from home station and in-process upon return from TDY. If the AF Fm 938 reports you to a location other than the PDS, equal or higher rank must certify your reporting to that location.

Accrued Leave: If members do not use their accrued leave, they must submit a memo to the RPO requesting their leave days to be sold.

Direct Deposit: If members change their direct deposit via My Pay or submission of form to RPO, do not close the old account until you verify the changes are in the system and your LES shows your new account information.

MYPAY PIN RESETS: To obtain a MYPAY Pin reset, you need to visit 943 RQG FM office, see Ms. Gloria Sturm. Please call her before you come, 228-5951. You have to show your CAC before she can reset your MYPAY Pin, it's a security requirement. The GSU 304th Rescue Squadron personnel can e-mail or call her for a reset.

New Member of the 943 RQG/FM Team: Ms. Deborah Parker is the new RPA budget analyst. She returned to us from a 4 year tour in Germany. She was previously the 943 RQG Operation and Maintenance appropriation budget analyst. Please welcome her to our Group when you come in to the office.

September is a very busy month for FM office personnel since we closeout the current fiscal year funding and convert to new fiscal year funding. There are many system processes for conversion. Please be patient as our customer service will be limited during this time. We might even have the door closed a few days and will appreciate e-mails, especially the last week of September.

Citizen Airmen rehearse desert combat ops

By Staff Sgt. Jordan Jones

162nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz.

-- Paint-ball bullets zipped around the eight-person security team as they peered into the mixture of gnarled mesquites, tall-desert grass, and thick sagebrush that shielded the attacking force from sight.

Out in the open, the security team was unable to effectively engage the attacking forces. The team leader signaled his element to move forward - into the underbrush. After moving less than a yard they too were concealed from sight.

"Every year we are required to do annual training as part of security force's core taskings," said Master Sgt. James Mulcahey, 162nd Security Forces Squadron training coordinator. "The tasking requirements range from [responding to] ambushes to land navigation, evacuating casualties and numerous scenarios we could encounter out in the field."

But this year's field exercise, held Aug. 10-11 at the firing range here, broadened the perspective of the 19 participating squadron members. The Arizona Guardsmen based at Tucson International Airport teamed up with fellow Citizen Airmen, rescue specialists from the 943rd Rescue Group, an Air Force Reserve unit at D-M, for a dynamic force-on-force experience.

"We decided to do something different with pararescue personnel because we wanted to get a feel for doing things in a multi-disciplinary, inter-agency training exercise," said Sergeant Mulcahey.

Normally, security forces work in 13-member flights, or in 44-member squadrons. Working with pararescue and survival, evasion, resistance, and escape personnel meant smaller teams.

"They [the pararescue personnel] have been teaching us some small group tactics; so instead of having to control 44 people we can break it

down into fire teams of five or six," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Long, a team leader during the exercise.

But the training wasn't only for security force's benefit. For Staff Sgt. David Adams, a pararescue specialist with eight months under his belt, the training provided a way to do the same things in a different way.

"Normally we might be on boat or an aircraft, so to do an over-land movement with ground forces is different but not out of the ordinary," he said. "Now if I ride up with a Ranger or security forces team, I'll know how to function and maneuver with them instead of just my own team."

The need to work with special operations forces comes from fundamental changes within security forces; no longer are they confined to guarding a base and the planes on the flightline.

"The career field is becoming more combat oriented," said Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Wallace, security forces. "We are doing more missions outside the wire, more search and destroy, internal and external perimeter control, and working with host-nation forces."

For Senior Airman William Wade the training was similar to what he had done in the Army. A Tucson born-and-raised Guardsmen, Wade served in the Army as a military policeman before joining the Guard a year ago.

"I'd like to see the same missions next year, but actually bring helicopters in for added realism - that would be pretty cool," said Airman Wade. "It was fun to get out in the field and get a little dirty."



Staff Sgt. David Adams a pararescueman from the 306th Rescue Squadron participates in a field training exercise with members of the Arizona National Guard 162nd Security Forces Squadron. The 306th RQS pararescuemen provided small group tactic training the 162nd SFS Airmen. (U.S. Air Force Photo/ Tech. Sgt. Luke Johnson)

And got dirty they did. From the underbrush the security team maneuvered to flush out the attacking force. Paintballs whizzed in return repelling the attack. Survivors surrendered and the wounded were treated for their simulated injuries.

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